

REMARKS

Claims 5-9, 16-17, and 20-41 are pending in the application.

Claims 5-9, 13-17, and 20-34 stand rejected.

Claims 5-7, 16, 20-22, 25-27, and 30 have been amended. Support for these amendments can be found on pages 14 and 17-19.

Claims 13-15 have been canceled.

Claims 35-41 have been added. Support for these additional claims can be found on pages 7-19 of the specification.

Formal Matters

The previous Office Action, mailed April 22, 2004, was a final action. Applicants note that the finality of the previous Office Action has been withdrawn. Applicants' representative, Brenna Brock, confirmed that the finality of previous Office Action had been withdrawn in a telephone conversation with Examiner Moore on September 24, 2004.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 5-9 and 30-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Chi et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,654,341 (hereinafter referred to as "Chi"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Applicant notes that Chi fails to anticipate, teach, or suggest: providing said portion of said first frame to a first one of a plurality of tasks, in response to said determining, wherein said first one of the plurality of tasks corresponds to said first one of said ring networks, and said frame is received from said first one of said ring networks; and providing a portion of a second frame to a second one of a plurality of tasks, in response to determining that a second one of said ring networks is failing, wherein said second one of the plurality of tasks corresponds to said second one of said ring networks, and said second frame is received from said second one of said ring networks, as recited in amended claim 5. Claims 6-9 are patentable over the cited art for at least the foregoing reasons. Claims 30-34 are patentable over the cited art for similar reasons.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 13-17 and 20-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chi. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, for similar reasons to those provided above with respect to claim 5.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5087.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 22, 2004.

Brenna A Brock

Attorney for Applicants

11-22-2004

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

Brenna A Brock

Brenna A. Brock

Attorney for Applicants

Reg. No. 48,509

Telephone: (512) 439-5087

Facsimile: (512) 439-5099